

Meeting Date: 4-25-06

AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Item # 5.E4

Santa Clara



City of Santa Clara, California



DATE: April 21, 2006

TO: City Manager for Mayor and Council Information

FROM: Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Community Forums Set to Obtain Public Comment on Firefighters' Union and Police Officers' Association Request to Place Binding Arbitration on the November 2006 Ballot

At their April 11 City Council meeting, regarding the Firefighters' Union and Police Officers' Association collective request to place binding arbitration for these unions on the November 2006 ballot, Council's motion directed staff to identify locations for and begin to implement a series of public forums on this topic.

That evening, following the City Council meeting, staff sent a request to the City Library, Parks & Recreation Department, and the Santa Clara Convention Center, asking about space available for potential forums. The goal was to have at least two forums, in two different parts of the community, to maximize ease of public attendance. These three facilities and their meeting rooms are heavily utilized by the public, but staff worked to identify two dates, times and locations, which were conveyed to both unions. The Firefighters' Union representative responded that they had a conflict with one of the selected dates. Staff then worked to find an alternate date, and the dates now selected are:

- Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 7 p.m., Santa Clara Convention Center, Rooms 203 and 204
- Wednesday, May 3, 2006, 7 p.m., Central Park Library, Redwood Room

On April 21, the City confirmed with the League of Women Voters their agreement to moderate the forums. They will provide opportunity for the unions to present their proposal for binding arbitration, for City staff to present their position on the matter, opportunity for each side to comment on the presentation made by the other side, and take public comments and ensure both sides have opportunity to respond to questions. The League of Women Voters is committed to work to balance the time provided to each viewpoint. Union spokesperson Gary Niblock has expressed concern about how the forums will be structured; staff has offered to meet to hear his thoughts. The unions have not yet confirmed their participation in the forums, but due to time constraints, in order to obtain public comment as directed by the Council, staff is proceeding with the promotion of the two events.

Attached is a media release being distributed to the media and community groups, as well as a flyer about the forums that is also being distributed.

Handwritten signature of Carol McCarthy.

Carol McCarthy
Deputy City Manager

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Sparacino.
Jennifer Sparacino
City Manager



Newsrelease

City of Santa Clara



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2006

Contact: Carol McCarthy, 408-615-2213

Public Invited to **Community Forums** to Discuss
Firefighters' Union and Police Officers' Association Proposed Ballot Measure for
Binding Arbitration

The Santa Clara City Council invites the public to attend community forums to hear about the City of Santa Clara Firefighters' Union and Police Officers' Association proposal to place a ballot measure on binding arbitration on the November 2006 ballot. The issue will be discussed at two community forums:

- Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 7 p.m., Santa Clara Convention Center, Rooms 203 and 204, 5001 Great America Parkway
- Wednesday, May 3, 2006, 7 p.m., Santa Clara Central Park Library, Redwood Room, 2635 Homestead Road

On April 11, 2006, the Santa Clara City Council held a study session to consider the request of the unions for the ballot measure that proposes to change the City Charter. The Charter change would provide for binding arbitration to resolve disputes between the public safety unions and the City on such issues as wages and benefits, hours, and other terms or conditions of employment. The disputed matters would be submitted to outside arbitrators for final decisions, rather than those decisions being made by City representatives including the City Council. The Council is expected to discuss the proposed ballot measure further on April 25 and May 9, 2006.

Information presented by the Firefighters Union, the Police Officer's Association and the City at the April 11th Council meeting may be reviewed on the City's website at www.ci.santa-clara.ca.us.

The public is encouraged to attend either community forum to listen, ask questions, and to provide comments. Those comments will be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration. The forums will be moderated by the League of Women Voters. The public may also email their comments to MayorandCouncil@ci.santa-clara.ca.us, or write to the Mayor and City Council, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

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Binding Arbitration



Two Public Forums

Two Community forums will be held to obtain public comment on the request from the International Association of Firefighters Santa Clara Local 1171 and the Santa Clara Police Officers Association to place binding arbitration on the November 2006 ballot

Tuesday, May 2

7 p.m.

**Santa Clara Convention Center
Rooms 203 and 204**

Wednesday, May 3

7 p.m.

**Santa Clara Central Park Library
Redwood Room**

Moderated by the League of Women Voters

For more information, call (408) 615-2213